

**AMENDMENTS TO THE SPECIFICATION:**

Please amend the title on page 1 at line 1, as follows:

USER INTERFACE TO A DATA STORAGE SYSTEM  
AND RULE STORE INTERFACE

Please add the following centered subheading on page 1 at line 2:

TECHNOLOGICAL FIELD

Please add the following centered subheading on page 1 at line 6:

BACKGROUND

Please add the following centered subheading on page 2 at line 31:

SUMMARY

Please add the following centered subheading on page 6 at line 20:

BRIEF DESCRIPTION OF THE DRAWINGS

Please add the following centered subheading on page 7 before line 1:

DETAILED DESCRIPTION

Please amend the paragraph beginning at page 18, line 6, as follows:

When a DS instance is started, the DS 400 initially registers with a notification server program 401, which has been loaded onto the notification server 303, to announce its interest in listening for certain types of event specific to the DS 400. Each

time a client 307 has to send to the DS 400 either a query or data for storage, it issues an event with the query expression or data for storage contained in the data element 213. The event firstly reaches a notification server program 402, which has been loaded onto the notification server 305 and which the client 307 is registered with. Upon reception of the event, the notification server program 402 wraps the event up in a notification message 419 (i.e. the event is enclosed within the notification message 419) and delivers the message to the notification server program 401 that the DS 400 is registered with. The notification server program 401 unwraps the event part from the message (i.e. extracts it) and sends it to the Receiver 403. ~~203~~.

Please amend the paragraph beginning at page 20, line 2, as follows:

The Receiver 403 consumes (701) StoreProxylet, StoreEvent and Query events arriving at it from a client through notification servers 303/305. The event is parsed (703) using the Xerces Java.TM. Parser (from The Apache XML Project) and a Transaction Context object is created (705). Both event and transaction context object are passed (707) through to the Event Handler 407, which initially unwraps (709) the data from the event. The data represents either the content to store in or a query to execute and is contained in the data element 213 of the event. Additionally, the Event Handler 407 updates the Transaction Context object with the event-id and the event originator's URL, information indicated by the value of the source element 207 of the event. Next, the Policy Store 409 is contacted (711) to retrieve any policies relevant to the received event. Important information for this search is the event-id contained in the event-id element 201 of the event. In this current case the assumption is that no such

policies have been set by a DSConfigurator role prior to the event's occurrence, hence the search yields no policies (713). Therefore, the Event Handler 407 assigns the Default Data Handlers to handling the received data, so it interacts (715) with the DS Adapter 411 to obtain the active instance of either the default Storage Handler or the default Query Handler. Since the default handlers are initiated at the moment of the Directory Service initiation (see above), they are already registered in the Data Handlers Registry 413; hence the DS Adapter 411 immediately retrieves and returns the appropriate handler reference (717). The Event Handler 407 consults a list of events consumed by the DS 400 and decides what action to invoke on the retrieved data handler, based on the received event-id. Next, the action is invoked (719) on the data handler. In case of a query, the Receiver 403 produces a QueryResults event (721) that contains the results returned (723) to it from the Event Handler 407. In case of a storing action, an Acknowledgement event is produced (719). Either produced event is finally returned (725) to the requesting client through the notification servers 303/305 (i.e., the event is enclosed within the notification message 421). The event's destination is obtained from the Transaction Context object.